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Yorks, D.T., R.W. Henderson, and R. Powell. 2003. *Typhlops tasymicris*.

Typhlops tasymicris Thomas

Typhlops tasymicris Thomas 1974:1. Type locality, "1 mi. E Vincennes, St. David Parish, Grenada." Holotype, Florida State Museum, University of Florida (UF/FSM) 21547, an immature female, collected by F.G. Thompson, 9 May 1968 (not examined by authors).

• **CONTENT.** No subspecies are recognized.

• **DEFINITION.** *Typhlops tasymicris* is a Blind Snake characterized by (Thomas 1974, Wallach 2000): (1) head rounded; (2) rostral in dorsal aspect broad (rostral/head width 0.5 and 0.4), oval, not flared on apex, no labial flare, rostral narrowest where it borders lip (41.3% maximum width); (3) preocular roughly triangular, anterior edge straight, posterior edge with an eye-level indentation and a smooth posterventrad curvature, preocular in contact with supralabials 2 and 3; (4) ocular more than twice as high as long; (5) postoculars 1/1, cycloid, larger but similar in shape to adjacent body scales; (6) parietals 2/2, anterior parietal on each side narrow and greatly extended laterally, reaching to a point below level of eye; (7) suture between nasals complete, lateral edges of anterior nasals not extending to nares; (8) maximum total length (TL) to 196 mm; (9) tail length 2.5 and 2.6 mm, tail 1.3% and 1.4% TL; (10) middorsal scales 429; (11) scale rows 20–20 with no posterior reduction; (12) scales in the 13 dorsalmost rows with dark centers, producing a pattern of dark brown longitudinal lines, the pigmentation in the more ventral of these rows becoming increasingly faint ventrally, a small brown spot on rostral and on dorsal tips of the postnasals, dorsum of tail pigmented as body.

• **DIAGNOSIS.** *Typhlops tasymicris* can be distinguished from all Lesser Antillean congeners by having 20–20 dorsal scale rows (22–20 or 22–22 in *T. monastus* and 24–22 in *T. dominicanus*; Schwartz and Henderson 1985).

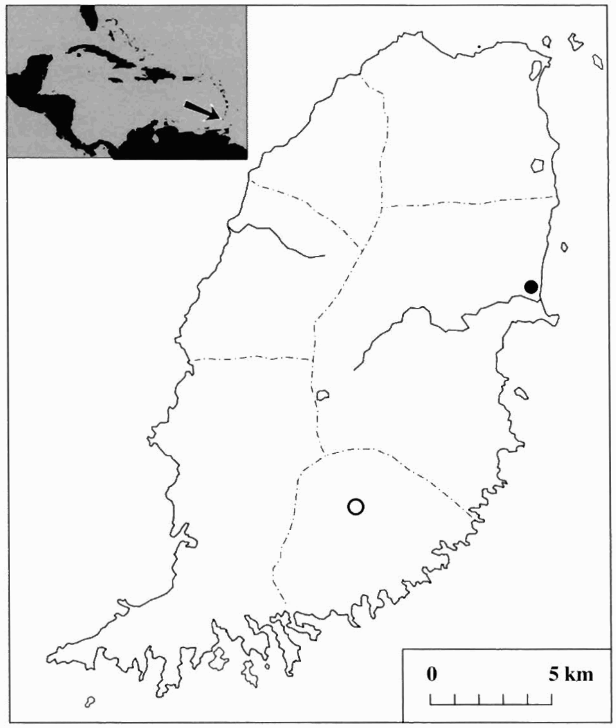
• **DESCRIPTIONS.** In addition to the original of Thomas (1974), detailed descriptions of the species are in Thomas (1976) and Schwartz and Henderson (1991). Wallach (2000) described the second known specimen.

• **ILLUSTRATIONS.** Thomas (1974, 1976) included line drawings of the holotype.

• **DISTRIBUTION.** *Typhlops tasymicris* is endemic to Grenada, where it is known only from mesic hillsides in the vicinity of the type locality and from near the abandoned Pearls Airport in St. Andrew Parish. The range was illustrated previously in Schwartz and Henderson (1991).

• **FOSSIL RECORD.** None.

• **PERTINENT LITERATURE.** The species has been included in checklists, keys, and guides by Censky and Kaiser (1998), Frank and Ramus (1995), Germano et al. (2003), Lescure (1987), MacLean et al. (1977), Malhotra and Thorpe (1999), McDiarmid et al. (1999), Powell et al. (1996), Schwartz and Henderson (1985, 1988, 1991), Schwartz and Thomas (1975), and Thomas (1989).



MAP. The distribution of *Typhlops tasymicris*; the circle indicates the type locality and the dot marks the only other known locality.

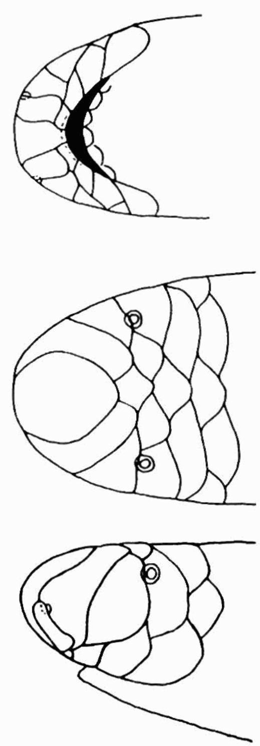


FIGURE. Holotype of *Typhlops tasymicris* (from Thomas 1974).

• **ETYMOLOGY.** The specific epithet *tasymicris* is an anagram of *Myristica*, the genus of the nutmeg, a tree contributing significantly to the horticultural forests of Grenada (Thomas 1974).

• **COMMENT.** Groome (1970) listed *Leptotyphlops margaritae*, "formerly known as *L. albifrons* (Wagler)," among the snakes of Grenada. This listing may be the result of misidentified *T. tasymicris* or incorrect locality data; Groome (1970) recorded the distribution of *L. margaritae* as "South America to (perhaps) Antigua."

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